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Poetry: How the Unicorn Missed the Boat

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HOW THE UNICORN MISSED THE BOAT

"Noah and his wife and all their family,
Plus all of the other animals,"
Writes my young student, "never look comfortable
On their ark. What prickly times there must have been
In steerage, passage, in the holds close quartered
Between porcupines and skunks—
Between anyone else and skunks!
God had to give them all their sweetness shots,
Or else the horses, rhinos, elephants and asses
Would have kicked through all that
Thick-pitched Shittim stood like so much straw.
No wonder the unicorns God discussed with Job
Out of the whirlwind
Declined the herd, compartmentalization,
Preferring to perish in the Great Deluge,
Admiring their rising reflections
Freckled in God's wrathful waters rather
Than risk uniqueness
In a floating zoo."

Walter Darrell Haden